

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School, Sun Valley, CA 91352

VOL. XCVII, No. 9

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MAY 2012

## Auditorium will reopen

\$2.2M upgrade includes better sound, brighter lights, new curtains.

By Gabriela Melendez  
Staff Writer

A \$2.2M renovation of Poly's auditorium is nearing completion. The upgraded facility is scheduled to reopen with the drama department's production of "Rent, the musical" on May 10. Funding for the renovation was provided Proposition 1D money and a Career Technical Education (CTE) grant.

"The upgrades will provide students with hands-on training using professional grade equipment to develop the career skills and knowledge necessary to compete in various highly-demanding technical field," said assistant principal Pia Damonte.

The upgraded auditorium's new features include additional spotlights and floodlights on the wall, stage and ceiling, including two "intelligent lights" with special effects capability.

The building's electrical system was upgraded to handle the additional equipment demands.

A professional level audio system, a high definition projector and backstage scaffolding will enhance stage productions.

New stage curtains were also added.

Two exterior wheelchair ramps on either side of the auditorium will allow easier access.

Two other facilities on campus were upgraded as part of the grant.

A pug mill, which recycles clay, pottery wheels and an upgraded electrical system were installed in ceramics teacher Karen Daneshvari's room.

A printer with a digital printer server and a thermal transfer printer used for mass production and oversized printings were added to the Parrot Connection room supervised by Michelle Alias.

Earlier this year, the exterior mural on the Roscoe Street side of the auditorium was refreshed as part of the renovation.

Facilities representative Sergio Alvarado is currently training drama coach Katy Groskin, KYDS associate Glen Philips and four students on operating the new equipment.

The Owner Authorized Representative (OAR) for the renovation was Lubna Kidess.

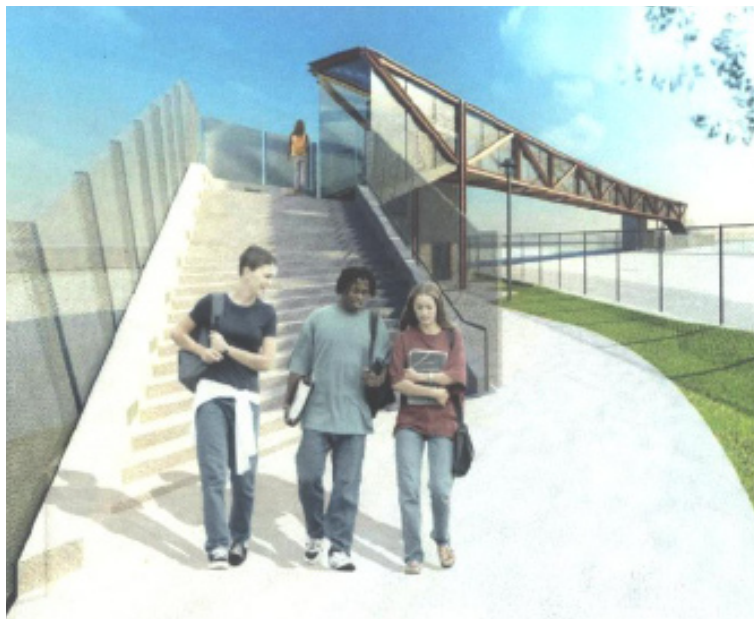


Photo Courtesy of LAUSD

**ARLETA BRIDGE:** Poly frosh will travel in comfort on this \$3M bridge.

## Poly Goes Prep

BOE mandates LAUSD students meet UC entrance requirements.

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

Next year's Poly freshmen will have to pass a much more rigorous curriculum to graduate, thanks to a 2005 decision by the Los Angeles Board of Education.

Beginning next school year, all LAUSD high school students must take a series of college-prep classes, including Algebra 2, commonly known as the A - G requirements, to graduate.

"To be a productive citizen in the 21st century, there is an expectation a person will be able to communicate and problem solve at a high level," said Poly Principal Ari Bennett. "These are the skills embedded in 'college prep' classes."

Only 15% of LAUSD's 2011 graduating class met the A - G requirements necessary for admission to the University of California and California State University systems.

Two-thirds of Poly's 2010 graduates completed the UC/CSU requirements.

The Board also proposed decreasing the credits needed for graduation from 230 to 170, or 25% fewer credits.

"My understanding is the final plan is likely to be more in the 190 credit

[ See A - G Requirements, pg 6 ]

## "RENT" will open auditorium

Play Production's Broadway rock opera features big production numbers and controversial characters.

By Gabriela Melendez  
Staff Writer

Poly's drama students will stage a production of "Rent," Jonathan Larson's Tony-award winning rock opera about a group of friends living in New York's East Village who struggle with STDs, poverty and love. The production, under the direction of Katy Groskin and KYDS' Glen Phillips, will mark the opening of the newly renovated auditorium.

Performances will run May 10-12 at 7 pm, with one act previews during the school day on Thursday and Friday.

[ See RENT, pg 6 ]

## If You Build It They Will Cross

By Jessica Flores  
Staff Writer

A \$3M structural steel and cast-in-place concrete pedestrian bridge will deliver Poly ninth grade students safely and securely over Arleta Street to their new \$34M home at the Valley Region Middle School #3 (VRMS#3).

The bridge will span from just north of the south exit from Byrd to just south of the new parking lot at Poly.

State approval for the bridge is expected by the end of next week, with a planned completion date of early November, according to VRMS#3 Owner Authorized Representative (OAR) Dan Holmquist.

The school, located north of Byrd Middle School and next to the 170 Freeway, is slated for a fall 2012 opening.

Architect Thomas R Moore of the IBI Group designed the bridge and Clark Construction is the primary contractor for both the bridge and the school.

The bridge is nine feet high, 10 feet wide (approx. 9-foot clear width walking surface) and 107 feet long, with an additional 39 feet as the bridge passes over onto the Byrd MS property adjacent to the elevator. The public right-of-way clearance over Arleta is 17 feet.

Maya Steel will fabricate the bridge in their shop in Los Angeles.

The bridge will then be delivered by truck to the site and put in place with a large crane. A dozen iron workers and welders and five additional staff for coordination and traffic control will assist on the day of erection.

Clark Construction representative S. Ali Jamali expects Arleta Street

to be closed for three days to deliver the bridge, set up the crane and install the bridge.

Once the bridge is in place, additional welding and other metal work is expected to take two weeks.

The elevator, manufactured by Mitsubishi Elevator Company, has a capacity of 3,500 lbs and interior clear dimensions of 4'3" by 6'8." The elevator is for disabled students

[ See Bridge, pg 6 ]

## Poly Staff Gets RIFs

By Cesar Quiñones  
Staff Writer

Ten Poly teachers received Reduction in Force (RIF) notices in March, part of a larger LAUSD staff reduction that totals approximately 9,500. About 800 of those RIFs are teachers whose positions were lost to declining enrollment.

"The RIFs put teachers in stressful situations," said Poly Principal Ari Bennett.

"The RIFs are an intimidating technique used to make teachers afraid," said Poly UTLA representative Bob Scott. "Twenty-five percent of teachers were RIFd this year. It would be impossible to run a school district while cutting one quarter of teachers."

"We see all of the staff as an extended family," said Scott. "It's frustrating as a Chapter Chair to feel so impotent when people you care about are faced with the loss of their livelihood."

"What I hear from the District is there's optimism that after bargaining with the unions, they will discontinue the RIFs," Bennett said.

Over the past five years, enrollment has decreased by 89,000 students. Last year 749 teaching positions were lost to declining enrollment.

"I was RIFd last year two times," said Poly 9th grade English teacher Dennis Madrigal. "My wife and I both got RIFd last year."

Madrigal is a seven-year veteran at Poly.

Scott expects most of the RIFs to be rescinded.

Most RIF letters get mailed by July 1 and are effective in mid-August, according to LAUSD officials.

Final layoff notices are usually sent by May 15, but may extend into June this year.



Google Image

## Just Passin' Through: Woody Guthrie in LA

"This Land is Your Land" composer had a radio show on KFVD.

MUSIC - page 5



Google Photos

## Smart pop, sweet vocals, hit single

"Somebody I Used to Know" from Gotye and Kimbra.

MEDIA - page 7

## OPINION

## EDITORIAL

## Prom Bash

As June approaches, many Poly fems start to worry about prom more than ever. I would expect it to start now, but I have been hearing about prom since February. There's no big deal about it, really. You spend \$100 on the ticket, \$100+ on attire, and \$100+ on transportation. Talk about an overpriced dance/dinner.

In our age where tighter is better and showing skin is as common as wearing clothes, this night is the worst of all lewd attire. Who in their right mind would spend hundreds of dollars on a dress you'd only wear ONCE? It's daft. Girls get to wear skin tight dresses, Grecian style dresses, and ruffles up the kazoo.

The most common dress I see is mermaid dresses, meant to show off as much as possible. It's hard for me to see any dignity in a girl who wears these. You can't even bend over in those. How can you dance, much less get up after sitting down? What's flattering about baring your whole body to the rest of our class? We see everything now. Don't even get me started

on those four inch stilettos. They should be called killer heels because they can be used as a weapon. Two, three hundred dollars wasted away on uncomfortable, posture changing shoes. What a waste of money.

1. Dresses may not be cut below the bust line. 2. Dresses may be backless as long as they are not cut below the naval. 3. Midriffs will not be exposed. 4. Dressed may not have a slit that exceeds mid-thigh, This is fingertip length.

I can only imagine how many clones there will be on Prom Night. All Poly girls dress the same: boots, jeans, and flowery/leather bag. Look up this second and I promise you will find someone wearing this. Imagine prom night, where there will be no individuality as everyone orders off catalogs and websites.

I understand that it's the one night where we all get to be princesses and are swept off our feet. Princesses don't dress the way we do. Not anymore. And the drama that comes with Prom is too many to deal with. Prom attendees, ask yourself this- is it worth the buck?

## LETTERS

## Four Years in the Lunch Line

Lunch was very enjoyable in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The food was edible. Lunch consisted of nachos, cheeseburgers, chicken patties, cheesy pizzas and more. Lunch was worth looking forward to.

However, from 11<sup>th</sup> grade on, packaged salads and cold ham and cheese sandwiches, which were smaller than the palm of my hand, were served at lunchtime. Even chocolate and strawberry milk were not allowed at lunchtime anymore. I couldn't look forward to lunch like I used to. There was no more variety of foods but the same thing everyday, salad or a piece of frozen meat between bread.

- Priya Chamber

Haven't really eaten anything at lunch since 9<sup>th</sup> grade when the food was somewhat good. The most delicious food in the menu was the chicken tenders. They were spicy and crispy.

But they cancelled all the menu and only give hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken burgers, and calzone. All of the food are disgusting. The calzone is the only thing that is good. The food is disgusting and the customer service is horrific.

- Antonio Santayo

There was a time when the food Poly offered was not so good. Hamburgers and pizza were the most common meals. Eating those kinds of food constantly is not very healthy. Personally, I can't eat too much junk food often because I get sick.

Last year Poly gave more salads than this year. It would be good if they would give more salads. I believe students shouldn't complain about the food because it's free.

The service is not so polite. There are some women who are very rude to students and have no patience at all.

Administrators should carefully choose who works here. Not just people who seem tired, and don't like to give service.

- Evelyn Sanchez

Lunch used to be acceptable in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Kids would eat it and not complain as much. It seems to all have changed when we stopped using tickets.

The school got a new system and new food. The thing is that they don't even ask for the students' opinion.

Administrators complain that they spend so much money on food. However, they give out food that kids don't like. It just goes to waste.

-Regina Martinez

Lunch at Poly High School has gone downhill through out my years here. During my freshman year the school's food wasn't all that bad. As the years went by, they changed the whole menu. They even stopped serving the actual good stuff, like chicken breast, salad and spicy chicken tenders, which were delicious. Also the choices got smaller. Now they give the same meals four days in a week.

- Vanessa Ochoa

Lunch at Poly is bland and without flavor. Most students at Poly get lunch because they are hungry, not because they want to. At one point, when the cafeteria was giving out salads, it was good. Then they give the same thing for a month and it just turned into other bland food. When they give out something new, we enjoy.

-Sonali Raminada

Poly's lunch has been getting worse as each school year passes by.

As an incoming freshman, I noticed the difference of the food from middle school. While the food was the same, the taste and look was not. The food here at Poly was less in quantity than what was served at my middle school. It looked uncooked and messy. At times certain foods were frozen when they shouldn't be.

- Guadalupe Ramos

the OPTIMIST  
VOL XCVII No. 9

MAY

## 3 A SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Magnet senior Raphael Rubio will major in Chem and Poli Sci at Columbia.

By Alex Kang

## 4 VISITING THE VILLA

The Getty by the sea is hosting Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love.

By Jasmine Aquino

## 4 TAKE THIS ADVICE

College counselor Leona Warman has advice for college bound Parrots.

By Lisa Guardado

## 4 PARROT TALK AT UC IRVINE

Poly ETS students attend workshop at leadership conference and workshops

By Yenifer Rodriguez

## 5 THIS MAN IS YOUR MAN

Iconic American folksinger and social critic Woody Guthrie was born 100 years ago.

By Lisa Guardado

## 6 NEW BUILDINGS, OLD PROBLEMS

Poly 9th Grade Center will move to VRMS#3 and environmental issues will follow.

By Jessica Flores

## 6 SUPERHERO MASHUP

Disney hits paydirt with director Whedon's Marvelous mix of action figures for fan boys.

By Shean Santy

## 7 MADE FOR EACH OTHER

Spacey Gotye and edgy Kimbra sing together on "Somebody I Used to Know."

By Adrianna Garcia

## 7 THROUGH THE MISTS OF TIME

Civil War reenactment brings watershed conflict to life in weekend fest at Pierce College.

By Jasmine Aquino

## 7 BLOCK TALKS

Westchester dashes Parrot playoff hopes but head coach Brian Block sees positives ahead.

By Jessica Gonzalez

## 8 A SET AWAY

Poly's tennis squad was out in the first round, losing one set too many to Westchester.

By Jessica Gonzalez

## 8 WILD FINISH

Two wild pitches led to two unearned runs and a 4-2 Lady Parrot loss to Grant.

By Stephen Castaneda

## 8 LIBERO EXTRAORDINAIRE

Senior Eugene Moreno's steady contributions to Poly volleyball land him athlete of the month.

By Shean Santy

## 8 PARROTS TIE FOR SECOND

A season-ending 6-2 win over Grant gave Baseball a second-place tie with Arleta.

By Shean Santy

## 8 VBALL KO'S KENNEDY

Poly's varsity volleyball squad squares off against Van Nuys after first-round 3-0 win.

By Shean Santy



the  
OPTIMIST

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School  
12431 Roscoe Blvd, Sun Valley, CA, 91352  
<http://polyhigh.org>

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor must be typed or printed in ink and include the writer's signature. The OPTIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.14 or Mr. Blau's box.

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Yenifer Rodriguez

## SPORTS EDITOR

Julie Ruiz

## PHOTO EDITOR

Diane Alvarado

## CARTOONIST

Patricia Racelis

## WRITERS

Jasmine Aquino

Jessica Flores

Jessica Gonzalez

Lisa Guardado

Gabriela Melendez

Cesar Quiñones

Nicolette Reneau

Shean Santy

## OPTIMIST ADVISOR

John Blau

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community, and follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff.

## INTERVIEW

The OPTIMIST caught up with magnet senior Rafael Rubio for some insights into his recipe for academic success. Here's what he said.

**Why Columbia?**

I chose Columbia because it is centrally located in the best city in the world, New York City. NYC is the cultural mecca of the world with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Broadway Theater and the best restaurants in the country. The diversity in culture and ideas and the location of the United Nations gives New York City a certain political atmosphere like no other.

Additionally, Columbia's distinguished faculty allows students to learn from the leading minds in their respective fields. Columbia creates modern Renaissance men, a necessity to succeed in the twentieth first century.

I would also love to do research with Luis Campos. His recent research exploiting nanostructured materials for the development of advanced functional systems and its importance in the atmosphere has greatly interested me. To have the ability to continue that research would be incredible.

I love Columbia's dedication to become green with their leadership in energy and environmental design.

**How long have you planned to go to Columbia?**

I never planned to go to a specific college. I had my dream school list, which Columbia was on. I applied everywhere. After a long time considering the pros and cons, I chose Columbia.



I would love to do research with Luis Campos. His recent research exploiting nanostructured materials for the development of advanced functional systems and its importance in the atmosphere has greatly interested me. To continue that research would be incredible.

# RUBIO TO ATTEND COLUMBIA

**How did you get into Columbia?**

There is no set formula to get into Columbia or any top tier school. Of course you have to get all As or almost all As, get high SAT scores, take the hardest workload that you can handle, do great on the AP test and be involved in extracurricular activities. But everyone has those stats. Your application needs something that makes the admission officers want to take a chance on you. What made me stand out was my volunteering, my essays and interviews and my recommendation letters.

**What did you write in your personal statement?**

I wrote about working with my father construction company and the values that it instilled in me.

**Have you visited the campus?**

I just came from a campus visit and it was amazing. It felt like home. The atmosphere was just a right fit for me. The neoclassical buildings took my breath away; the people were so passionate about whatever they were doing.

**Do you know what courses you'll have in the fall?**

I know the classes I want to take: a seminar in Constitutional Law, a freshman intensive organic chemistry class and Portuguese for Spanish speakers along with the required freshman classes, which is University Writing and Literature and Humanities. Classes start September 6th. I want to stay in Carman yes I saw it when I visited.

**What will you major in?**

I want to major in Chemistry and either double minor in Political Science and Portuguese, or double major in Chemistry and Political Science.

**Do you know of any other Poly grads at Columbia?**

Florentino Salazar is at Columbia Law School and he has given me great insight on not only New York and life at Columbia but life and career paths.

**What will you do after Columbia? Any long term goals?**

My dream is to go to graduate school, get a doctorate in either environmental chemistry or political theory and matriculate to a top law school focusing on environmental policy and patent and intellectual property law. I know it seems daunting

By Alex Kang  
Staff Writer

and unreachable but so was being accepted to a school like Columbia. My philosophy is to take it one day at a time but also have a set path and goals you strive to achieve.

**Any teachers that were particularly helpful?**

Mr. Gomez, who did everything in his power to teach us chemistry and guide me. My English teacher Ms. Martin and my history teachers Dr. Lehavi and Mr. Morillo, who helped me become an intellectual. I am extremely grateful for everything they did for me.

Mrs. Couchois and Mrs. Bryan have taken care of me ever since I stepped on campus. I wouldn't be going to a school like Columbia if it wasn't for them.

**What explains your academic success?**

I think what put me over the edge was my drive to succeed at any cost and to compete with myself to always better myself and go the extra mile work harder and longer than anyone.

**Are your parents supportive?**

My parents have supported my aspirations and goals and encouraged me to dream big and gave me support when I felt like I could not succeed. This allowed me free range to pursue my educational goals with complete support, which I think is invaluable, having that type of support group.

**What book are you reading?**

I just started reading "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce. The book follows protagonist Stephen Dedalus as he progresses through life and depicts his intellectual awakening.

The last book I read was "Remnants of Auschwitz: The Witness and the Achieve." It depicts and details the Nazi death camps from the point of view of the captives. The things that were conducted at Auschwitz and other death camps was inhuman and a human atrocity. It really allowed me to put into perspective even more so the blessings I have received and value my life and what I have.

**Are you or have you ever been a geek?**

I think the stereotype of what is a geek is overly dramatized in the movies. With that said, I am a "geek." I like learning and talking about intellectual subjects, but I don't wear overalls and have glasses with tape on them. I like dirt biking and surfing and I have a good sense of style.

**Have you always been academically successful?**

I am definitely a late bloomer. In middle school, I was by no means a star or "smart" but I think once I entered high school I became more focused and determined and my intelligence was allowed to flourish. I also believe that it had to do a lot with the teachers. The teachers in the magnet are extraordinary and helped me reach my potential.

**How do you explain your academic success?**

I think my academic success is attributed to the good study habits, even though I can procrastinate sometimes, my determination, my supportive family and friends and finally over my high school career I have learned not to become overly stressed and preoccupied over things that you cannot control that if you gave it your best the outcome will be fine.

**What else do you do?**

I dirt bike and surf so I guess that means I have pretty good concentration and balancing.

**What do you consider your greatest weakness?**

Greatest weakness could be my greatest strength, my focus and perseverance. I have sacrificed most of my social life and have neglected my friends and family members all so that I could succeed.

**Define success.**

When you look back at your past, if you do not regret anything, and feel that you did all you could have, that is success.

**Where were you born?**

I was born in Culiacan Sinaloa, Mexico, the capital of the drug trade. I live with my grandmother in Sylmar during the week and my parents on most weekends. They live in Valencia, near Magic Mountain.

## OFF-CAMPUS



Photo by Jasmine Aquino

**GARDEN:** Square marble basins and bronze statues surround the inner peristyle's narrow pool.

## Visiting the Villa

The Getty's new Aphrodite exhibit that is well worth the trip.

By Jasmine Aquino  
Staff Writer

Aphrodite—flirtatious, uncaring and born of sea-foam—is the Getty Villa's new star. The "Aphrodite and the Gods of Love" exhibition at the Pacific Palisades home of sprawling Greek, Roman and Etruscan artifacts runs through July 9.

The exhibit traces a pathway from the early worship of Aphrodite as a fertility figure in the Near East, her appearance as a love goddess for the Greeks and her ultimate adoption by the Romans as Venus.

"Aphrodite and the Gods of Love presents, for the first time, a comprehensive and scholarly appreciation of the love deity," said Christine Kondoleon, the exhibit's author.

Kondoleon's book on the exhibition features more than 100 marble sculptures, painted vases, mosaics, precious metals and delicate jewelry—including contemporary depictions by artists like Jim Dine.

The Villa gardens paint a picture of the goddess' power: her beauty fills the air with birdsong and flowers bloom as she passes by.

And the Villa itself houses statues of muscular gods riding in chariots, libidinous, nude women pouring jugs of water down their backs, rabbits nibbling on grapes and ferocious lions devouring their prey.

Aphrodite was not native to early Greece. Her myth developed over the centuries and was influenced by Near Eastern goddesses such as the Sumerian Inana and the Phoenician Astarte.

Aphrodite contributed greatly to our

conception of love and sex.

Her influence is seen in many realms: sex, marriage, fertility, sailing, civic order, and even war. No surprise then that the city built multiple shrines to her.

A recurrent theme—to male and female, young and old—was her capacity to create harmony and union.

According to the myth, Aphrodite wore a magic girdle to make both mortals and gods alike fall in love with her. This adornment served as a model for mortal women.

The exhibit buttresses the claim with the display of various precious jewels and metals, such as the golden ring.

An engraving displays a figure, perhaps Aphrodite, holding out a balance scale. On each pan is a depiction of Eros—or Cupid, the god of desire and son of Aphrodite. The story told by the picture may be akin to our own "he loves me, he loves me not."

The goddess' body is never fully exposed in the Villa exhibition. Instead, sculptures softly define facial features that capture qualities like dewy eyes, radiance, and winsomeness.

Innumerable images of the goddess—also displayed at the Villa—created throughout the ancient Mediterranean do, however, hold varying degrees of undress.

A feast for the eye, "Aphrodite and the Gods of Love" is surely this year's sexiest exhibitions.

The exhibit was organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston with major loans from Italian institutions in association with the J. Paul Getty Museum.



**ROMAN ELITE:** Marble sculptures from left Caligula, Agrippina and Julia Titi, circa A.D. 50.

## Start Making Plans

Parrot college counselor Leona Warman stresses getting an early start on planning your college career.

By Lisa Guardado  
Staff Writer

It's that time again.

Spring has sprung, flowers are in bloom and college counselor Leona Warman is urging all junior and senior Parrots to start planning for college now.

"Juniors must start preparing and figuring out where to go to college and what they'd like to do," Warman said.

Students must take the SAT to attend a four-year university. May 8 is the deadline to register for the June test.

"Waiting til your senior year to take the SAT can be dangerous," said Warman. "Four-year universities do not accept SAT scores after Dec."

Seniors are running out of time if they want to get into college in the fall.

"May 1st is deadline to submit intents to register to any four-year universities that you were accepted to," Warman said.

Students planning to go to a two-year college must register now and take the placement test. Procrastinate too long and all classes will be closed.

Getting accepted into a top-notch school is getting tougher every year.

"Make yourself competitive," Warman said. "Get involved in activities. Use the summer vacation time to either volunteer or do internships. Take classes at a university or get a job."

Universities are looking for students who demonstrate leadership, as well as students who challenge themselves and show interest in continuing their education during summer, according to Warman.

Warman also recommends visiting colleges and universities during summer break.

"Email or call universities you are interested in," Warman said, "and set up tours to visit the school."

Everyone should look up and visit nearby universities such as CSUN, Cal State LA, Cal State Channel Islands, UCLA, Woodbury, Pomona, Cal State St. Mary's and USC, as

well as community colleges such as Mission.

Students should prepare for the SAT.

"There are prep books you can check out or purchase," said Warman. "Study and prepare yourself for the SAT. With a high SAT score, you can get in to any university you want."

Some Parrots can't decide between going straight to a UC or going to a community college and then transferring?

"Students with good grades should consider a four-year university first," said Warman.

California has two groups of four-year public universities. The UC system, designed for students who intend to do graduate research, has nine undergraduate campuses. The 23-school CSU system offers primarily undergraduate degrees.

"Cal States are more hands-on schools," Warman said. "You practice more with what you learn and also internships."

**Students planning to go to a two-year college must register now and take the placement test.**

Warman recommends that students research the schools that interest them.

"If you get accepted to a UC and a Cal State, but only the Cal State offers the program that interests you, then you should choose the Cal State. You don't want to go to a university that does not offer what you want to study."

A student with poor grades can go to one of California's 112 community colleges, improve his or her GPA and then transfer after two years to a four-year university once he or she meets that university's entrance requirements.

The bottom line, Warman said, is desire.

"Everybody can go to college if they want to," Warman said. "Set your mind to it and you can go anywhere you want to. It is possible and you can do it."

## ETS at UC Irvine for Leadership Conference

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

Poly's ETS club participated in a Leadership Conference for programs like Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound at the University of California, Irvine on Wednesday. Five Poly students made the two-hour trip on a charter bus.

Students ate blueberry and chocolate muffins and granola bars on the ride down to Irvine. They also watched "Despicable Me."

The conference had nine workshops and each student got two plus a last class. I had Workshop H: How to Team Build and Workshop I: How to Run an Effective Meeting.

After the first two sessions, students ate Subway sandwiches during the lunch break.

Entertainment during the lunch break included the Chinese Association dance group and a group of singers.

A final class was offered after lunch. It wasn't interesting.

The students then went to the Physical Science Lecture Hall for the scholarship announcements. The scholarships were funded



by University of California Irvine.

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez handed out \$500 scholarships to 10 students from various programs. Winners can use the money to attend the college of their choice.

Current OPTIMIST editor Yeni Rodriguez met with former OPTIMIST Editor-in-Chief and UC Irvine freshman Joel Hinojosa.

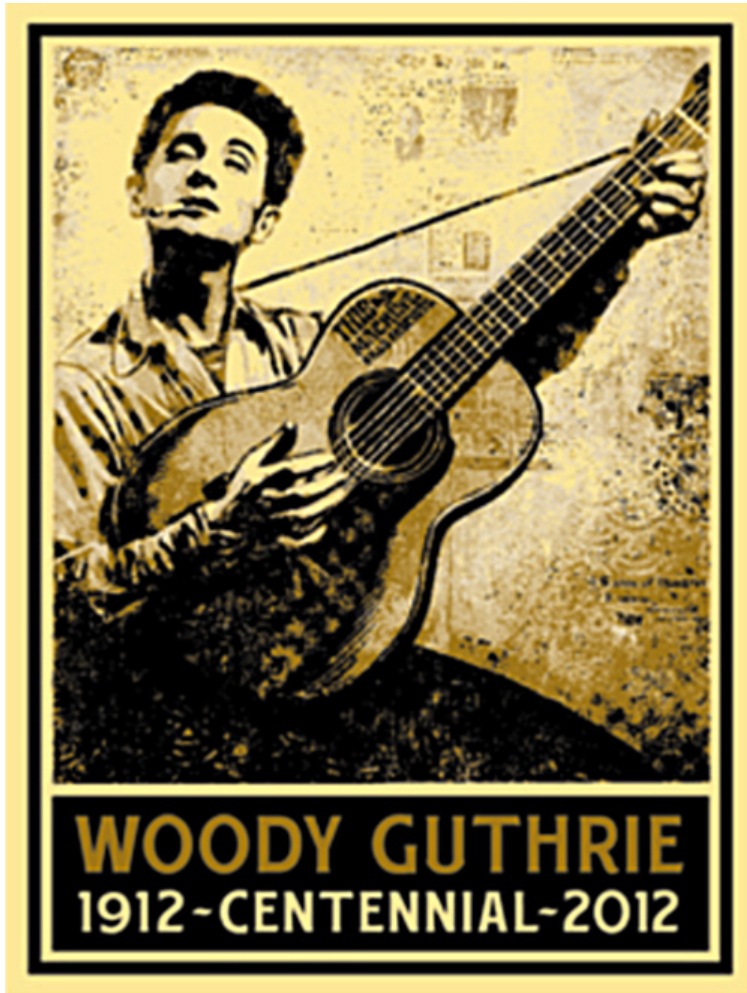
"It was around 1 in the afternoon and he had barely woken up," Rodriguez said. "It was pretty awesome seeing him since I hadn't seen him since July of last year. We caught up a bit and talked about how the OPTIMIST had won first place for the 6th year in a row."

Students arrived back at Poly around 4 pm.

## MUSIC

# Woody Guthrie

## THE LEGACY LIVES ON



My dad was worth about thirty-five or forty thousand dollars. He had everything hunky-dory, and then he started having a little bad luck. In fact, our whole family had a little bit of it. I don't know whether it's worth talking about or not. I never do talk it much . . .

My fourteen year old sister either set herself afire, or caught afire accidentally. There's two different stories got out about it. Anyway, she was having a little difficulty with her school work, and she had to stay home and do some work, and she caught afire while she was doing some ironing that afternoon on the old Kerosene stove. It was highly unsafe and highly uncertain in them days, and this one blew up. It caught her afire and she run around the house about twice before anybody could catch her. Next day she died. And my mother -- that one was a little bit too much for her nerves or something. I don't know exactly how it was, but anyway my mother died in the insane asylum at Norman, Oklahoma. Then about that same time my father mysteriously, for some

There's a lot of people who say say he caught afire accidentally. I on purpose, because he lost all his

All of my brothers and sisters, they found themselves scattered. be adopted by different families. There was eleven of us, lived in two or three beds, you know, so and some of us at the foot, and had faces. You know how that is. Then took to the road. I hit the road one the highway to be what's called tramp was in 1927.

At that time I was about down to Galveston, Texas, hoed in that country, helped drill water helped a carpenter tear down a time I was about eighteen.

Then I went back up into the wheat belt. Up around Amarillo, Texas I got into that country, I got a job about job with a feller that owned a root beer he'd give me three dollars a day to people root beer. So I told him I had

And this guy had a guitar that laid there wouldn't be any customers in guitar and got to pecking around on it. And learned a little old chord, just how learnt a just a few little old songs, and did own a guitar, though.

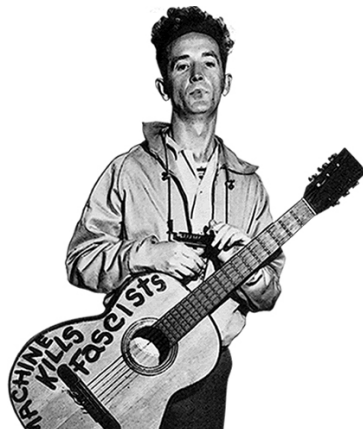
In this part of Texas where I was stories in the history of the whole

I remember the particular evening that this dust storm here blew up. I us were standing just outside of this so we watched the dust storm come up Israel children. Anyway, we stood there watched the sun of a gun coming up. And I'm telling you it got so black when that thing hit, we all run into the house, and all the neighbors congregated in the different houses around over the neighborhood

We sit there in a little old room, and it got so dark that you couldn't see your hand before your face, you couldn't see anybody in the room. You could turn on an electric light bulb, a good, strong electric light bulb in a little room and that electric light bulb hanging in the room looked just about like a cigarette burning. And that was all the light that you could get out of it.

And so we got to talking to, you know, and a lot of the people in the crowd that was religious-minded and they was up pretty well on their scriptures, and they said "Well, boys, girls, friends and relatives, this is the end. This is the end of the world." And everybody just said, "Well, so long, it's been good to know you." I made up a little song there -- kind of one of my own making. It's called "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You . . ."

### THE ALAN LOMAX INTERVIEW FOR THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



reason or another, caught afire. that he set himself on fire. Others always will think that he done it money.

all these things happened and I lived with a family of people. a little two-room shack. We had we'd sleep some of us at the head everybody's feet in everybody's after that, I don't know, I kind of day. The first day that I ever hit a rambling man or a hobo or a

seventeen years old. So I went figs in all them orchards down wells, irrigated strawberries, and whole bunch of houses. And that

panhandle of Texas. The big -- north of Amarillo, Texas. When the third day I was there. I got a stand, supposedly, and he said stand behind the counter and sell the intelligence enough to do that. around there, and a lot of times this place, and I'd grab up this I thought it sounded awful pretty. to barely chord along, and finally just kind of drifted into it. I never

working, some of the worst dust world, I guess, broke loose.

of April the fourteenth, 1935, was standing, a whole bunch of little town here that you see, and like the Red Sea closing in on the

March the twenty-first, 1940

Who would have imagined a young Oklahoma boy, Woody Guthrie, would change America through his inspirational music. This year we celebrate 100 years since his birth.

Some may know Guthrie as the singer of "This Land is Your Land," which became one of the United States most famous folk songs. Others may remember him for his guitar and its sticker on the front saying "This Machine Kills Fascists."

Rumor even had it that Guthrie had been associated with United States communist groups, though he was never a member.

Guthrie influenced great songwriters like Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, Phil Ochs and Bruce Springsteen. In 1943, he wrote "Bound for Glory" about his life.

Hal Ashby directed a film of the book in 1976.

In 1997, Guthrie was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

Guthrie was born in Okemah, Oklahoma in 1912. Life was much simpler then.

Guthrie turned his many experiences, from The Great Depression, World War II and even a glimpse of The Summer of Love, into songs.

During the Dust Bowl era, also known as the Dirty Thirties, he wrote "Dust Bowl Refugee" and "Dust Can't Kill Me." He became known as the "Dust Bowl Troubadour."

In California, Guthrie achieved fame as a broadcast performer of commercial "hillbilly" music and traditional folk music with the help of partner Maxine "Lefty Lou" Crissman.

In 1940, Guthrie moved his family back to Texas and left for New York.

After the start of World War II, Guthrie's radio show was put on hold. The station's management said they did not want their staff "spinning apologia" for the Soviet Union.

In an interview with Alan Lomax for the Library of Congress, Guthrie tells the story of how he learned to play the harmonica.

"I was passing a barber shop one day. I was about fifteen years old. And there was a big, bare-footed boy in there, and he had his feet turned towards me. He was playing the harmonica, he was playing the "Railroad Blues."

### 1937-1940 the LA Years

Woody Guthrie came to LA in 1937.

LA was country in those days. The Sons of the Pioneers were on KRKD, the Saddle Tramps on KFOX and KMPC had the Saddle Pals. Stuart Hamblen and Roy Rogers were stars.

Woody and Jack, his cousin, put an act together singing in bars and doing promotions for local businesses.

Frank Burke, who owned radio station KFVD, offered the boys a mid-day slot. They called it the Oklahoma and Woody Show.

Guthrie moved into the spotlight when Jack left, dropping the cowboy tunes for traditional folk and singing originals as well.

Guthrie's mix of music, wry wit and biting commentary proved popular and Burke soon had the singer on three times a day. Guthrie's Oklahoma roots struck a chord with many listeners, as did his social commentary and criticism.

Maxine "Lefty Lou" Crissman was added to the show, her harmony a welcome addition to Guthrie's rough-hewn vocals.

The pair headed south in 1938 for a brief stint at XELO in Tijuana before returning to KFVD. When Maxine's health began to fail, Guthrie left KFVD for good.

In 1939, Guthrie began contributing a column called "Woody Sez" to "The Daily Worker," the official paper of the American Communist Party.

"I ain't a communist necessarily, but I've been in the red all my life," Guthrie told critics of this association.

Guthrie wrote some of his most important works during this period, including "Dust Bowl Refugees" in 1938 and "The Ballad of Pretty Buy Floyd" in 1939.

Actor Will Geer and Guthrie became friends that year. Geer was headed to New York to play a role in the Broadway adaptation of "Tobacco Road" and suggested Woody come along. In 1940, Woody found himself in the Big Apple.

There, Guthrie's musical collaborators included Lead Belly, Cisco Houston, Pete Seeger and Brownie McGhee among others, all part of a loosely knit folk group called The Almanac Singers.

The Almanacs helped make folk music popular in America. A decade later, original members of the Almanacs would re-form as the Weavers, the most commercially successful and influential folk music group of the early 1950s. It was the Weavers who introduced Guthrie's music to the larger public.

### WORDS AND MUSIC BY WOODY GUTHRIE

#### This Land Is Your Land

This land is your land This land is my land  
From California to the New York island  
From the red wood forest  
to the Gulf Stream waters  
This land was made for you and me

As I was walking that ribbon of highway,  
I saw above me that endless skyway  
I saw below me that golden valley  
This land was made for you and me

I've roamed and rambled  
and I followed my footsteps  
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts  
And all around me a voice was sounding  
This land was made for you and me

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,  
And the wheat fields waving  
and the dust clouds rolling,  
As the fog was lifting, a voice was chanting  
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking I saw a sign there  
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing"  
But on the other side it didn't say nothing,  
That side was made for you and me.

In the shadow of the steeple, I saw my people,  
By the relief office I seen my people  
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking  
Is this land made for you and me?

Nobody living can ever stop me,  
As I go walking that freedom highway;  
Nobody living can ever make me turn back  
This land was made for you and me.



### Whose Land Is It?

"This Land Is Your Land" was released in 1951, but originally written in February 1940, when Woody Guthrie first arrived in New York City from Oklahoma.

Guthrie wrote the lyrics as an answer to Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," sung by Kate Smith, at first sarcastically calling it "God Blessed America for Me" before renaming it "This Land Is Your Land."

"He tended to write words first, and later on picked out a tune," said folk singer Pete Seeger.

The melody was from "When the World's on Fire," a 1930 gospel song by Guthrie favorite the Carter family. "When I'm writing a song and I get the words, I look around for some tune that has proved its popularity with the people," Guthrie said.

On shore leave from the Merchant Marines, Guthrie recorded "This Land" during a marathon April 1944 session in New York for Folkway Records founder Moses Asch. The song contained this verse:

There was a big high wall there that tried to stop me.  
The sign was painted, said 'Private Property.'  
But on the backside, it didn't say nothing.  
This land was made for you and me.

Though the recording was lost until Smithsonian archivist Jeff Place found it in 1997, the populist version was sung at rallies and around campfires all around America for years to come.

## CAMPUS

## New Buildings Rise, Old Problems Persist

By Jessica Flores  
Staff Writer

Poly's Arleta Street 9th Grade Center may be new, but its location has a long and troubled history.

Two recent LAUSD reports, a Human Health Risk Assessment (HRA237) and Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA238), found "risks to students, faculty and other LAUSD staff at the site from on-site and off-site sources of hazards and hazardous materials."

Those risks include potential subsurface migration of landfill gases to the site from the neighboring Sheldon Arleta Landfill (volatile organic compounds [VOCs], Aldehydes, Methane, and Hydrogen Sulfide) and potential lead soil impacts from historic freeway automotive emissions (Metals, including lead).

The 170 freeway, constructed in the 1960s, has the potential to contribute to health effects from adverse air emissions due to vehicle traffic on the highway.

Other issue include imported fill brought to the site during final grading/construction that contains metals, semi-volatile organic compounds [SVOCs], pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs] and three 10,000-gallon diesel tanks on the grounds that contain

metals, SVOCs and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons [TPH].

HRA237 and PEA238 concluded, however, that the toxins do not pose a health hazard to future workers, faculty, or students. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The reports are available for review at the LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, 355 South Grand Avenue, Floor 15, Los Angeles.3C.2.1

### Cancer Risk

Cancer risks are expressed as the upper-bound increased likelihood of an individual developing cancer as a result of exposure to a particular chemical.

Using maximum COPC concentrations detected at the site, the total excess cancer risk from residential exposures to surface soil, via incidental ingestion, dermal contact, and fugitive dust inhalation, was estimated at  $5 \times 10^{-7}$  (0.0000005), which was well below the DTSC target risk goal of  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  (0.000001) deemed acceptable by the DTSC. 207.

Additionally, the total cancer risk from inhalation exposures to VOCs emanating from soil gas into indoor air was estimated at  $9 \times 10^{-8}$  (0.00000009), which is well below the DTSC target risk goal.

The estimated Hazard Index of 0.09 was below the threshold level of 1.0.

## "Rent" will play Poly

[ From RENT, front page ]

people with AIDS and HIV and that is a taboo subject, especially among religious families."

Freshmen Crystal Cruz and Audriana Wilson play Mimi Marquez, a stripper with AIDS. Seniors Gabriela Pelayo and Zuky Guillien play Joanne Jefferson, a lesbian.

"It feels comfortable because we can learn from each other," said Guillien. "I'm getting more comfortable with it everyday. If we commit and give the play our all, it will be something great and unexpected."

Other cast members include junior Alexis Campos as Mark Cohen, junior Manny Arellano as Rodger, junior Kelso Acala as Tom Collins, freshman Mary Aves as Angel Shunar, freshman Peter Simples as Benjamin Coffin III and senior Gabby Melendez as Maureen Johnson

The big production numbers include "Goodbye Love" and "La Vie Boheme."

Rehearsals began February 13.

"It's always slow at the beginning," Groskin said, "and then as we get closer to the performance, we work a lot harder. We're just beginning to amp up for the show."

The cast gained access to the auditorium April 25.

"The biggest challenge now is putting it all together, given that we have had limited time in the auditorium and learning the new equipment," said Groskin. "That has been the

greatest obstacle."

"We will be using probably half of the capability of the equipment because we don't have the time to learn how to fully use it," Groskin said.

But Groskin believes "Rent's uplifting message will come through loud and clear."

"There's no day but today," Groskin said. "Love who you love and be proud of it."

Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's "La Boheme," which premiered in Turin in 1896, was the inspiration for "Rent." Puccini's four act opera consist of a collection of vignettes portraying young bohemians living in the Latin Quarter of Paris in the 1840s.

"Rent" premiered off-Broadway on January 25, 1996, a day after the sudden death of the show's creator at age 36.

The Broadway production closed on September 7, 2008 after a 12-year run of 5,124 performances, the ninth-longest-running Broadway show at the time. The production grossed over \$280 million.

The success of the show led to several national tours and numerous foreign productions.

In 2005 it was adapted into a motion picture that featured most of the original cast members

The first act is about 45 minutes followed by an intermission. The second act is 20 minutes.

Rent was suggested by the Gay Straight Alliance.

## Pedestrian Bridge

[ From If You Build It, front page ]

only.

Total walking distance across the bridge is 205 linear feet, including the stairs at each end. Approximately 200 students can cross the bridge during a seven-minute passing period.

The three buildings on the VRMS#3 campus total approximately 85,000 square feet.

The 9th Grade Center (A4) will have approximately 712 two-semester seats in 23 classrooms.

A second building (C) will also serve the

9th Grade Center and will house additional facilities that include a library, four classrooms, an amphitheater, a multi-purpose room, food service and administration support services.

The Adult Education Academy (A5) will be located in the third building.

Also on the campus are a lunch shelter, playgrounds, natural playfields and 278 parking stalls.

The project, which broke ground in November of 2010, was designed by Thomas Blurock Architects and sits adjacent to Byrd Middle School and the 170 Freeway.



Google Image

FIREPOWER: Black Widow (scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) vs. aliens.

## Boffo Box Office Boosts "Avengers"

Marvel comic fans mob theaters for action-packed "Avengers" as Disney counts receipts.

By Shean Santy  
Staff Writer

Walt Disney Co. made a bold move with its \$4B purchase of Marvel.

The investment started paying off over the weekend, when "The Avengers" topped the \$200M mark, the largest domestic weekend gross ever. The last Harry Potter installment was the previous record holder with \$169M.

Worldwide gross ran \$641M.

Superhero movies have been a popular concept for cinematic success for the past decade, especially the comic book variety.

"The Avengers" is the ultimate superhero package, offering six for the price of one ticket: Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, The Hulk, Hawkeye and Black Widow.

The buzz for the movie started years ago, when hints and cameos began appearing in various Marvel movies as early as Sam Raimi's "Spiderman" in 2002.

Critically-acclaimed hits "Iron Man" and "Iron Man 2" overshadowed The Hulk, Thor and Captain America. But not to worry. "Avengers" is an epic and action-packed thrill ride.

Sci-fi master and pop culture fave Joss Whedon wrote and directed. Whedon is known for cult hits "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Firefly" and "Dollhouse." Whedon also directed 2005's "Serenity."

The plot is functional. On the brink of

disaster, Nicky Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) of the S.H.I.E.L.D. recruits the iconic superheroes. Villain Loki (Tom Hiddleston) is accompanied by an alien race of Chitauri.

Robert Downey Jr. reprises his charming turn as Tony Stark/Iron Man. Chris Evans is Captain America, Chris Hemsworth is Thor and the versatile Scarlett Johansson plays the Black Widow.

Mark Ruffalo ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") replaces Edward Norton for the role of The Hulk, while Jeremy Renner ("The Town") takes on Hawkeye and Cobie Smulders ("How I Met Your Mother") plays Agent Maria Hill.

Humor adds another element to the film's creativity. Audiences expect jaw-dropping fight scenes, but the conflicting views of each superhero are comedic gems.

The special FX and dazzling 3D are visually satisfying. Rolling Stone's Peter Travers called the movie "Transformers with a brain." Others liken it to "Citizen Kane for the citizen geek."

A colossal team of epic characters seemed impossible to keep in line, but Whedon has done a good job of pacing and stayed true to the comic book expectations of fans. "The Avengers" is definitely a summer blockbuster, with the best superhero since the dawn of "The Dark Knight."

One last thing. Stay for the end credits and a special scene.

## College Prep Coming

[ From Poly Goes Prep, front page ]

range, which will be 40 fewer than is presently required," said Bennett.

LAUSD officials, fearing the new standards will raise the dropout rate, have asked the Board to create a one-year grace period in which students can use "D's" for graduation credit.

Thereafter, only classes passed with a C or better in all A-G courses can be used towards graduation.

Poly's current policy is for freshmen and sophomores to repeat any classes in which a student has earned a "D."

Algebra 2 is the biggest obstacle for Parrots in meeting the A-G requirements, according to an internal audit done two years ago.

Poly currently offers tutoring, independent studies, and access to the ALEKS web-based software program for students struggling with

difficult classes. This ALEKS software uses sophisticated technology to diagnose the specific skill set students need to develop to meet the course requirements and provides practice and support, with the help of a teacher, to meet those requirements.

The Board also proposed dropping health/life skills, technology and electives like calculus and journalism.

"Health is a critical class for students to take to learn about communication, self esteem, healthy living, and developing and maintaining healthy relationships," said Bennett. "I believe the district will agree and keep health as a graduation requirement."

Whatever the Board decides, Bennett remains confident about Poly's future.

"Maybe I'm biased as a proud Parrot, but I believe our students and faculty are up to the challenge of the new more rigorous standards," Bennett said.

## MEDIA

# The Gotye-Kimbra Connection

By Adrianna Garcia  
Staff Writer

Gotye's name seems to be popping up everywhere lately. "Somebody that I Used to Know," his single, is in heavy rotation. The ballad, the first off "Making Mirrors," was number one on the Billboard Hot 100 and still sells thousands of downloads weekly months after being released.

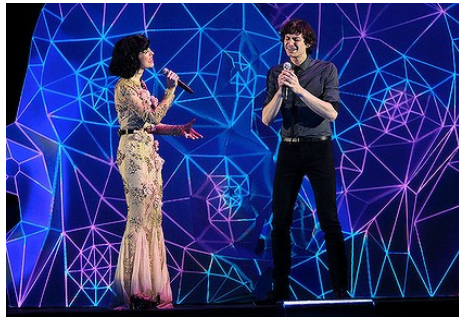
"Mirrors" isn't Gotye's first venture into the music world. He started off small, 11 years ago, playing in Australia's obscure indie-rock scene.

Gotye formed his first band, Downstares, in his teens. After the band broke up, Gotye created a four-track album that he sent to several recording studios in the area.

While doing so, he met Kris Schroeder and they formed The Basics. The duo released four albums over a six-year period and still play the occasional show together.

Later, Gotye created "Boardface," his first official album, and was offered a recording deal. A second release, "Like Drawing Blood," created buzz in Australia, was nominated for several awards and made Triple J's Hottest 100 Australian Albums of All Time.

"Making Mirrors" 12 eclectic tracks reflect Gotye's one-of-a-kind sound. The first track is a preview of the surreal sounds on the album, soothing and comforting. A few songs are faster-paced, but most create an overwhelming sense of ease thanks to Gotye's smooth vocals.



Google Image

**DUET:** Kimbra (left) joins Gotye on his hit single "Somebody I Used to Know" from "Making Mirrors," his new album.

"Eyes Wide Open" and "Save Me" could easily find their way to movie soundtracks and shows, while "I Feel Better" channels the older funk and soul but adds a modern twist.

An old piece of artwork Gotye's father had done in the '80s became the cover.

"It had a beautiful balance of emotion and mathematics, I thought, and it just seemed to match the diversity in the music."

"Mirrors" was mostly recorded in a barn in Australia that belongs to Gotye's parents. He set up all his equipment in one room and spent all of his time perfecting and refining his music. Most was done on his own, but he did get some help from Downstares bassist Lucas Taranto, who did most of the bass lines in "Mirrors."

Gotye said he appreciated the company. "Recording an album on your own can

definitely get lonely at times, so there's nothing better than hanging out with a dear old friend to lift your spirits," Gotye said.

Many of the tunes are bits and pieces of old vinyl records he got at thrift shops that were sampled and tweaked to fit his style. The process took about a year, with "Somebody" alone needing nine months to record and polish.

The single also benefitted from guest vocalist Kimbra, who added a whole other dimension to the song, making it all the more perfect.

Like Gotye, Kimbra's story is one of work and determination. Born in New Zealand, Kimbra started singing and playing the guitar at age 12. She performed at sports events and was featured on children's shows throughout her teens.

In 2011, Kimbra signed with Warner Bros. Records and released "Vows," her debut.

The Gotye guest vocal gave her career an extra push and brought attention to her unique voice. The "Settle Down" and "Good Intent" music videos are show off her strong vocals, edgy image and youthful charm to great effect. Comparisons to Florence and the Machine and similar artists have brought her a larger audience.

"Mirrors" melodies and feel sound like nothing you've ever heard before, hauntingly beautiful and absolutely worth listening to. And Kimbra's career too should sky rocket and get the praise she deserves, thanks to her Gotye connection.

# Talking Tennis

Veteran Parrot varsity tennis coach reflects on the team and the season.

By Jessica Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

**What happened in the singles?**

Playoffs are different. All four singles play the other team's singles. Also all doubles play each other. The four doubles each count as 1.5 of the points. The first to get 25 points wins. We lost by one match. The team that beast is also advance to the next match by one point.

**Singles managed only five wins in 16 sets. What was Westchester's strategy?**

Because doubles matches count more than singles, our strategy was to win all the doubles games. We almost won, but we couldn't get that last match.

Really, nobody dominated. It was pretty much even. If we had played them on another day where it would have been sunny instead of cloudy, I believe that would have made a difference. They didn't dominate us, it was just that when two great teams play against each other, they can't both win.

**You looked to go pretty deep in the playoffs. Were you surprised by Westchester?**

I thought we would have gotten that match. I really thought we had that.

**Talk about the season and what went right.**

Pretty much everything went right the singles were strong and they are coming back so we will come back stronger. Doubles ate mostly underclassmen they will get better as they play.

**Did the team lose momentum as the season went on? Did the early wins come easy?**

They were winning constantly. The only teams that gave us trouble were the ones that ended up in the play offs.

**Compare this year's team to last year?**

I was surprised how this team did. Last year's team was more seniors, so it was their last year for successes. This team showed great strength and ability. I was especially impressed with Andy Choi, who, as a junior, worked on improving everyone around him.

**Looking ahead, are you coming back and who will you have after graduation?**

There is still a long time till next season and I really have not thought of assembling the team next year. But if we are able to get everyone back, we would have an incredible team.

**What will it take for Poly to break into ranks of the elite teams in our league/section/division?**

I think it would be a much better coach, like Pacific Palisades. They have private lessons on a weekly basis. Many of these players are ranked on the USTA and several go on to playing pro.

I don't think we will be able to compete on the level unless I were to quit teaching here at Poly and learn full time how to be a pro coach. I think us winning the city finals is not on our grasp. This is why they have an invitational. The invitational is within our grasp.

# Civil War Shootout Draws a Crowd

Civil War reenactment at Pierce College gives young and old alike plenty to see and hear.

By Jasmine Aquino  
Staff Writer

The Heritage Days Foundation presented a Civil War Historical Reenactment at the Pierce College Farm Center over a late April weekend in celebration of the war's 151st anniversary.

"Today is a day for history," said William T. Peck, who has played President Abraham Lincoln for the past 30 years. "Our whole object is to give history to young people particularly."

The Civil War began with a shot fired in Charleston, South Carolina on April 12, 1861. Four years of a divided nation's warfare resulted from the fateful day.

The battle re-created was a snippet of time from the Civil War: men clad in blue and grey exchanging gunfire over the groans of casualties, neighing horses and booming cannons.

"We have to realize that people died back then to protect us now, to help give us a nation now," said William Pond, a 19-year-old Moorpark resident who played a Union Corporal of the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry Company A. "Confederate or Union, it doesn't matter. They were Americans, and they died to protect liberty. Each side had their own reasons, but it was a liberty they perceived."

Car alarms went off, children covered their ears, and parents jumped in their seats as 100 Union and confederate soldiers fired pistols, rifles and cannons on the broad fields of the college.

After about an hour, the audience eagerly watched a Union soldier capture the Confederate flag through clearing gunpowder smoke.

After the battle, a crowd gathered to hear Pond talk about the history of the Civil War and role-playing as a Union soldier.

Children and adults alike excitedly pestered him with questions: How do you know when you die? How do you know when one side



Photo by Jasmine Aquino

**PHOTO OP:** Abe Lincoln fan poses with the Civil War president at Pierce's weekend festivities.

wins? Do you sleep in a hotel or do you camp out here? Where do you shower? Do you shower?

Pond, like the other re-enactors, sleeps on a hay mat out in the field during the weekend. The soldiers get tapped on the shoulder when more are needed to die. Most want to keep shooting, so a special red round gets placed with their ammunition. When they draw the round, they fall to the ground and take their last breath.

Visitors watched exhilarating cavalry charges, artillery barrages and infantry assaults as part of the weekend's reenactment of America's watershed event.

Historical notables from the past addressed those present at the event, including President Lincoln (Peck) who delivered his famous Gettysburg Address as part of a grand "Living History" program.

Peck handed each student a new Lincoln Bicentennial 2009 coin: Formative Years in Indiana, a redesigned penny celebrating Lincoln's 200th anniversary. On the back is a young Lincoln reading while taking a break from rail splitting.

"We try to give information to the students—information they cannot find in history textbooks," said Peck. "We try to let them see what life was like during the Civil War era."

Throughout each day, demonstrations and



Photo by Jasmine Aquino

**REBEL ROUSERS:** Part time Union soldiers.

presentations took place, including Victorian dancing, a Victorian clothing showcase and displays of various skills and crafts.

"The state does not fund the event and the profits go to charity," said Ed Mann, coordinator of the Pierce College Foundation.

The Civil War Alliance Foundation will continue reenacting the war in various locations of Southern California throughout the rest of the year.

## SPORTS

## POLY IN THE PLAYOFFS



## BASEBALL

Season: 10-19  
League: 7-5  
Standing: shares 2nd  
Status: made playoffs  
Opponent:  
Outcome:



## TENNIS

Season: 10-3  
League: 6-2  
Standing: 1st  
Status: Made Playoffs  
Opponent: Westchester  
Outcome: Lost 15-14



## SOFTBALL

Season: 19-2  
League: 10-2  
Standing: Shares first  
Status: made playoffs  
Opponent:  
Outcome:



## VOLLEYBALL

Season: 13-7, 4  
League: 9-3  
Standing: share 2nd  
Status: made playoffs  
Opponent: Kennedy  
Outcome: Won 3-0

## TENNIS

## Tennis out in first round

By Jessica Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

Number four seed Poly played 25 sets against Westchester Wednesday and lost one too many. The Comets eliminated the Parrots in the first round of the CIF Invitational.

Poly #1 singles Andy Choi finished the regular season undefeated and is expected to play in the singles playoffs May 15.

Poly had home court for the first two rounds, and head coach Brian Block expected a good run from his squad. But his singles players only took five sets out of 16 and the doubles couldn't make up the difference.

Poly finished second in the East Valley League at 6-2 and ended the season 10-4. Preseason play included two wins, two forfeits and a 7-0 loss to El Camino.

## PRESEASON

Poly def Fairfax 6-1  
Singles: 3-1 / Doubles: 3-0

Poly beats Sherman **forfeit**

Reseda def Poly 6-1  
Singles: 0-3 / Doubles: 1-3

El Camino def Poly 7-0  
Singles: 0-4 / Doubles: 0-3

Poly def Marshall **forfeit**

## SEASON

Poly def Grant 6-3  
Singles: 4-0 / Doubles: 2-3

Poly beats Monroe 5-2  
Singles: 3-1 / Doubles: 2-1

North Hollywood beats Poly 5-2  
Singles: 2-2 / Doubles: 3-0

Poly beats Verdugo 7-0  
Singles: 4-0 / Doubles: 3-0

Poly beats Grant 5-2  
Singles: 3-0 / Doubles: 2-2

North Hollywood beats Poly 6-1  
Singles: 1-3 / Doubles: 0-3

Poly def Verdugo 7-0  
Singles: 4-0 / Doubles: 3-0

## SOFTBALL

## Unearned runs costly

By Stephen Castanedad  
Staff Writer

Grant used a clutch bases-loaded single by Lancer junior first baseman Monica Rivero to score the go-ahead run in the third, breaking a 2-2 tie and leading to a narrow 4-2 win over the Lady Parrots.

The season-ending loss meant Poly (19-7, 10-2) had to share its first-place East Valley League finish with Verdugo Hills, while Grant (10-12, 9-2) ended up in second place.

"We committed some mistakes and lost confidence in each other," said veteran Parrot head coach Manny Peralta. "You cannot make mistakes again good teams."

## The Lancers picked up two unearned runs on a hit, two walks and two wild pitches to go up 2-1.

Parrot junior Monica Mendoza took the loss, allowing four runs on four hits, walking three and striking out five. She also threw the two wild pitches.

Lancers senior Samantha Marron had a nice outing, limiting the Lady Parrots to two runs on six hits. Marron registered one strikeout and walked none.

Poly's Mendoza singled and scored on Janet Zapien's sacrifice fly to right to get Poly on the scoreboard.

But the Lancers picked up two unearned runs in the bottom of the inning on a hit, two walks and two wild pitches to go ahead 2-1.

Lady Parrots Desiree Ibarra and Alondra Rodriguez hit back to back singles to start the second. Ibarra scored on a one-out single by Alexis Serafin to tie the game.

The Lancers picked up their final run in the third on a throwing error.

## VOLLEYBALL

## Athlete of the Month



## EUGENE MORENO

By Shean Santy  
Staff Writer

## GAME FACE

During the pre-game, I listen to music and go in a self-state of mind. I'm basically on focus mode.

My pre-game soundtrack is "Let's Go" by Trick Daddy (ft. Lil' Jon & Twista), "I'm a Beast" by Tech N9ne, "Remember the Name" by Fort Minor, "Beast Mode" by B.o.B and "Till I Collapse" by Eminem

I'm pumped and calm at the same time. My mindset is to go all out and do my best not to drop a ball or give up any easy points.

## ON THE COURT

I'm a libero and I serve as a defensive specialist for the team.

I'm a three year varsity player and I was actually moved up from JV during the playoffs in 9th grade.

The rivalry with the Dons of Verdugo existed since our coaches played for Poly. Our team play is at a whole other level when we play them. It is just a determined and inspired ball game.

I started playing volleyball in my pre-high school years. My older sister taught me how to play. She played for Poly's girls' volleyball team.

In 9th grade at Verdugo, I dove across the court and saved the ball while our outside hitter Kevin Avelar managed to send the ball to the other side for a Poly point.

## BASEBALL

## Parrots end league play

By Julie Ruiz  
Staff Writer

Poly capitalized on Lancer mistakes, including two walks and two errors, to gather up enough runs for a 6-2 win in the Parrots last league game of the season.

"We're going to finish in second place," said head coach Gabe Cerna, "our best finish in my six years here."

Senior Alejandro Lopez picked up the win, giving up two runs on three hits and a walk while striking out four.

The Lancers' Robert Factora took the loss.

Grant struck first when Lopez walked in junior Robert Tagle. Sophomore Christian De La Torres scored on a base hit and the Lancers were up 2-0 in the third.

The Parrots picked up two runs in the fourth to tie the score at 2-2. Sophomore left fielder Octavio Marquez got a lead off single and scored on senior Alex George's sacrifice fly.

Senior Josue Moreno reached base on an error and then scored on a sacrifice from senior Fabien Rodriguez in the fifth as the Parrots went ahead 4-2.

In the sixth, Marquez walked and later scored on a single by senior first baseman Sabino Contreras. Senior center fielder David Reyes walked and scored on an error on third as Poly added two insurance runs.

"This team shows flashes of being really good," Cerna said, "but we have been inconsistent."

Cerna was pleased with his pitching, however.

"With the emergence of Lopez and pitcher Josue Moreno, the sky is the limit."

Poly (10-19, 7-5) finished in a tie for second place in the East Valley League with Arleta while Grant (11-16, 5-5) has a pair of games remaining with North Hollywood.

## VOLLEYBALL

## Dons do Parrots don't

By Shean Santy  
Staff Writer

Parrot arch foe Verdugo Hills brought a spotless league record to Poly Thursday and left the same way. The Dons swept the match 3-0 at 17-13-19 and the league season at 2-0. The Parrots suffered a similar 3-0 snuff out at Verdugo in early April.

"The boys were pumped to seek revenge and to reclaim the title of league champs," said Parrot assistant coach Melissa Gillard. "The game started, we were communicating, we were loud, we celebrated when we executed a play and we shook it off when we made a mistake. The way we started should have been how we finished."

But it wasn't. The Parrots quickly fell behind 5-13 in the first game, with Dons senior C.J. Suarez doing most of the damage.

"We shut down completely," said Gillard

A time out didn't help, and Poly's lack of blocking and slow transitions cost them the first game at 17-23.

Gillard told the middle blockers the next game was theirs to win or lose.

The Parrots came out strong to start game two but couldn't penetrate Verdugo's well executed defense. Poly managed only four kills for the entire game.

"The deep corners of the court were open," Gillard said, "but the boys had no sense of court awareness."

Overall, Verdugo played smarter and with more intensity, keeping the ball away from Parrot senior libero Eugenio Moreno and hitting away from Poly's blocks or in between them.

"The match statistics are the lowest we've had the entire season," Gillard said.

Poly (16-9, 8-2) ended the regular season in second place in the East Valley League while Verdugo (31-5, 10-0) finished on top.